BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969.

and

Incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A. BARLOW, M.B.,Ch.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BRIERFIELD,
Lancashire.

May, 1970.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Brierfield Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration, the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

It includes various matters which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. BARLOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1969 according to the Rate Book was 2,859, the rateable value being £186,009 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £713.

Social conditions were generally quite good. There was no serious unemployment. The main industry is cotton. Other manufactories include bottle tops and plastics.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1969 is 7,290.

BIRTHS. 135 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1969, 75 males, 60 females. Of these, six, 3 male and 3 female, were illegitimate. Crude rate per 1,000 home population, 18.5.

Three still births were recorded. Rate per 1,000 total births, 29.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1969.	1968.	1967.	1966.	1965.
Total Live Births	135	121	125	95	97
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estim.population.	18.5	16.6	17.2	13.0	13.3
Adjusted Rate	20.5	18.4	19.1	14.5	14.8

Four deaths occurred of infants under 1 year, the infant mortality rate being 30 per 1,000 live births.

Previous Infant Mortality rates:-

1968.	1967.	1966.	1965.	1964.
NIL	8.0	NIL	30.9	18.2

The Neonatal mortality rate was 22 per 1,000 live births.

The Perinatal mortality rate, stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was 50.

DEATHS. 88 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1969 as follows:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths within the Urban District.	27	20	47
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	22	19	41
	49	39	88

Death Rate (Cause Groups B.19 (1-6 inc.) Malignant Neoplasms etc.	1.65
Respiratory T.B.	NIL.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1969.	1968.	1967.	1966.	1965.
Total Deaths.	88	88	109	90	107
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estim. population.	12.1	12.1	13.6	12.4	14.7
Adjusted Rate	12.5	12.2	13.9	12.5	14.7

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1969.

Causes of Death at different periods of Life during 1969.

Columns for the ages 1-4 yrs; 15-24 yrs; 25-34 yrs. have been ommitted as no death occurred in these age groups.

Cause of Death.	Sex.	Total all Ages.	U/4 Wks.	1/12 to 1.	Age in years. 5-14	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & Over.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Benign & Unspecif. Neoplasms.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	M	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hypertensive Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease.	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
Other forms of Heart Disease.	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Cerebrovascular Disease.	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis & Emphysema.	M	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms & Ill Defined Conditions.	F	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accds.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other Accidents	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuries.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus.	M	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total All Causes.	M	49	2	-	1	-	5	8	15	18
	F	39	1	1	-	1	2	4	12	18

TUBERCULOSIS.

There has been an increase in the numbers on the register during the year. There were five additional pulmonary cases and three non-pulmonary.

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1969.

On the Register at the end of December, 1969, there were 20 cases of Tuberculosis (15 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	4	3	1	3	1	2	15
Non-Pulmonary Renal Tract	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	5
	2	4	5	2	3	2	2	20

All these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer and no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE: The Urban District is served by ambulance and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE: The Infant Welfare Clinic for the Urban District is held weekly.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE: There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1,000 Estimated Population.	
	Crude Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate.
Mean of 5 years 1964-1968	15.0	13.6
Year 1969	18.5	12.1
Year 1968	16.6	12.1
Increase or decrease in 1969 on 5 years average 1964-1968	+3.5	-1.5
Change on Previous Year	+1.9	NIL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES	Age Groups						
		-1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	15/25	25/35
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	18	3	7	8	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Infectious Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
	27	4	8	9	2	1	2	1

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Arnold.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Miss Sumner.

Councillors: Brown, Clegg, Edmondson, Marsh, Greenwood, Nolan, Petty, Mrs. Rawlinson, Sutcliffe and Woodcock.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. Arthur Barlow, M.B.,Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector: John S. Haworth. Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B. R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Inspector, Sanitary Science, etc.

Duties: All matters coming within the purview of a Public Health Inspector including supervision of refuse collection. Appointed as Officer under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Appointed as an Officer under the Shops Act by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY: Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of the North Calder Water Board and there were no new sources of supply during the year. All dwellinghouses within the District, except one, are supplied direct from public mains. The one exception, which is supplied by spring water, is an isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable distance from the nearest public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES: The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,908.

WATER SAMPLING:

Public Mains. The water was sampled frequently by the Board's Officers and found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS: There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL: The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Number of Privy Middens. NIL.

Number of Pail Closets. There are five only, two of them at isolated dwellings, the other three on the golf course. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2,543.

Number of Waste Water Closets. 514.

Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets.	NIL.
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	30
Number of houses on water carriage system.	2,906.

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action of the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by direct labour, with a 50 cu.yd. Eagle Crushload vehicle. Refuse is collected weekly from domestic premises, shops, factories etc., twice weekly from fish shops etc., and disposed of at the Burnley tip by arrangement with the County Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins. - 3181.

INSPECTIONS MADE.	1969.	1968.
Number of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service)	296	308
Number of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies	68	151
Number of requests for additional collections	554	578
Visits to Smoke Control Area	939	1036
Sanitary accommodation etc., in factories and workshops	34	30
Bakehouses	9	6
Unfit Food	15	16
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	113	137
Complaints/re-visits	586	600
Infectious Diseases Enquiries/Food Poisoning	7	10
Public Sanitary Accommodation	25	22
Council Houses	17	16
Water Supplies	17	-
Housing Act, Re-Inspections	55	181
Outworkers	4	-
Interviews Owners etc.	30	79
Rate/Mice	46	65
Other Infestations	23	6
Noise Nuisances	1	12
O.S.R.P. Act	58	65
Shops Acts	273	295
Schools	4	4
Refuse Accumulations, Tips, Dustbins	610	571
Drains Tested	28	24

INSPECTIONS MADE (Cont.)	1969.	1968.
Informal Notices Served	138	120
Informal Notices Remedied	102	170
Formal Notices Served	24	6
Formal Notices Remedied	24	6

DISINFESTATION. Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 23 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm. Complaints of caterpillars, wasps, bugs and fleas were also dealt with. The bugs/fleas were dealt with by spraying and fumigation.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. The two establishments registered under this Act were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

H O U S I N G.

CONDITION. Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows and semi-detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year forty four houses were completed by private enterprise.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 184.

   b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made. 296.

   c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 31.

2. Total number of dwellings existing at the end of year which were unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit and in respect of which -

   a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 10

   b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made -

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR.

a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 18

b) Public Health Act - action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,

(i) By owners NIL
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL

c) Housing Act, 1957 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16) houses made fit,

(i) By owners NIL
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners NIL
(iii) After determination of a Closing Order 2

HOUSING ACT 1969 - STANDARD GRANTS.

Action during the year	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
Submitted to and approved by Loc.Auth.		
To Full Standard.	60	60
Work completed	41	41

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

a) Dairies in the District 3
b) Premises outside the District 7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies 26

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1969 was as follows:-

Type of Business.	Number.
General Grocers	18
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	10
Bakers	6
Confectioners	2
Fried Fish Shops	5
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	13
Licensed Hotels/Clubs	16
Snack Bars etc.	2

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given at the bottom of the page.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of factory chimneys in the District	6
Observations taken during the year	11
Smoke nuisances discovered	5

Brierfield No.3 Smoke Control Order came into force in July. One further Order was made during the year. In No.5 Area, there are 64 Council owned flats/houses/bungalows, 829 private dwellings, 3 commercial premises, 1 lock-up shops, & 7 other premises.

There have been complaints about smoke from incinerators at two factories and a considerable amount of work was done in an endeavour to overcome the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL.

The sewer manholes were treated in March and checked in April. Test baiting showed no sign of infestation.

The following properties were treated:-

Properties treated following notification and found to be infested by:-	a) Rats	24
	b) Mice	66
Routine inspections (Other than above)		163
Properties found infested by rats		3

In addition, the Council's properties (tips and buildings) were regularly inspected and baited.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Regist.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	25	34	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	25	34	-	-

2. DEFECTS. No defects were found.

3. OUTWORKERS. Sections 110 and 111. The Notified Outworkers were visited. Conditions were satisfactory.

C O M M E N T.

GENERAL.

Again it must be said that abandoned vehicles have continued to cause difficulties and notwithstanding the Council's considerable efforts to remove beds, furniture etc., the problem of "dumpers" remains.

Joint meetings have continued to be held with neighbouring authorities in an endeavour to overcome tipping problems.

A separate report was issued on the operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and is reproduced below.

Records under the Factories Act continue to need attention although complete inspections were made.

Reports of Rats, mice and cockroaches are referred to the Pest Control section of Rentokil Laboratories Ltd. Prompt attention is given to all complaints. This firm also undertakes the sewer treatments, carried out in 1969 during March and April.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

The number of premises on the register shows a slight reduction on the previous year.

One Estate Agency closed, one shop changed hands and thereafter employed only part time labour, another ceased to employ an assistant and at another shop the former assistant became a partner. A Laundrette began operations during the year.

Reminders have had to be given re maintenance of first aid equipment but at the end of the year only one had not yet complied. It is not anticipated there will be any difficulty.

SMOKE CONTROL.

Brierfield No.1 Order came into force on the 1st August, 1967 and No.2 Area which covered the remainder of West Ward on the 1st July, 1968. No.3 Area came into force on the 1st July and No.4 will come into force in 1970. No.5 Area was submitted to the Minister during the year.

The number of premises in the five areas is as follows:-

No.1 223, No.2 270, No.3 258, No.4 281, No.5 863.

HOUSING.

Undertakings have been accepted in respect of some of the houses closed after action under the Housing Act, but a few remain, gradually getting worse and causing grave dissatisfaction to the neighbours.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The improvement mentioned in the 1968 report due to the use of the new vehicle has continued. Collection is much quicker and there has been a considerably reduction in the number of complaints of failure to empty bins.

The refuse collecting vehicle now collects from the shops on Fridays replacing the open wagon formerly used for this purpose. This was the result of a "Productivity" deal and appears to be satisfactory.

In 1966, there were 375 complaints of failure to empty bins, in 1967, 241: in 1968, 151: in 1969, 42. Some of these complaints are due to bins being improperly used for heavy builders refuse, some to the use of tubs without handles and to defective dangerous bins. Such receptacles are now reported and action is taken to ensure the provision of a standard bin in good order.

The Council continues, at considerable expense, to remove unwanted articles. This service is not always appreciated and even though for the most part it is free, people continue to dump unwanted furniture and other unwanted material in most difficult places. A similar statement has been made in previous years and it is unfortunate that it must be repeated.

In 1966, there were 537 requests for additional collections, in 1967, 424: in 1968, 578 and in 1969, 554.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff, the Engineer to the Water Board, and the staff of the County Council's Brierfield Clinic is here gratefully acknowledged.

J.S. HAWORTH,

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1970.